

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-16 are in this application and are presented for consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 11. Applicant has also added new claims 13, 14, 15, and 16. Applicant has canceled claim 2.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9. It is Applicant's position that the features of claims 1 and 9 are supported in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 1 and 9 as now presented and all claims that depend thereon.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended the claims paying close attention to the Examiner's remarks. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the helpful remarks. It is Applicant's position that the claims as now presented are clear and satisfy the requirements of the statute.

Claims 1 and 6-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nuebauer et al. (WO 01/35368).

The present invention relates to a remote control system for controlling appliances with a remote control. The system comprises a plurality of appliances. Each appliance comprises

a transmitter, a receiver and an identification address. A remote control is provided. The remote control comprises a transmitter, a receiver and a key. The key can be a hard key or a soft key or any other suitable type of key. The transmitter of the remote control transmits the second signal to each of the appliances. The transmitter of each appliance transmits a first signal to the remote control. The receiver of each appliance receives and decodes the second signal from the remote control. An identification address is transmitted by each appliance transmitter to the remote control. The receiver of the remote control has a defined receiver aiming axis. The receiver of the remote control receives and decodes the first signal transmitted by one of the appliances. The receiver of the remote control includes a directional receiving means for narrowing an angle of reception of each transmitted first signal so that the receiver of the remote control only receives one of the first signals emitted from one of the appliance transmitters based on the disposition of the remote control. The directional receiving means is a vertex of a virtual conical channel. The virtual conical channel has a base directed towards one of the appliances for receiving the first signal of one of the appliances. This allows selection based on the position and direction of the remote control.

The directional receiving means is critical in the present invention. In the present invention, it is essential that the remote control has a very narrow reception angle so that the receiver only receives the signal emitted from the transmitter of the appliance that the remote control is directed at. This advantageously allows the receiver to receive only signals coming from the transmitter of the appliance to which the receiver aiming axis is pointed and not from the other adjacent appliances. The present invention advantageously allows a plurality of

appliances to be controlled by a single remote control without having to program the remote control with information corresponding to each appliance. The prior art as a whole fails to provide such features or advantages.

Neubauer et al. discloses a remote controller for controlling at least one device 3-13, comprising a transceiver 20-26, 30, by means of a remote controller 1. The remote controller 1 comprises a transceiver 40 whereby information is transmitted from the transceiver 10-26, 30 of at least one device 3-13 to the transceiver of the remote controller 1 in order to identify the at least one device 3-13.

Neubauer et al. fails to teach or suggest the combination of features as claimed. Specifically, Neubauer et al. fails to teach a directional receiving means for narrowing the angle of reception of each first signal emitted by an appliance transmitter such that a receiver only receives one of the first signals when the receiver aiming axis is directed at the appliance transmitter. Although Neubauer et al. clearly shows in Figure 1 that a plurality of transceivers 20-26, 30 send information to the transceiver of the remote controller 1, Neubauer et al. fails to provide any suggestion of how the remote controller 1 limits the receiving angle of the signals received by the remote controller 1. At most, Neubauer et al. merely discloses a reception area on the receiver of the remote controller 1 and a pointer device made like a laser pointer that is directed toward the devices 3-13 to visibly locate the beam of the remote controller 1. In contrast to Neubauer et al., the present invention provides a different approach. In the present invention, the directional receiving means narrows the angle of reception of each signal emitted from a transmitter of each appliance so that the receiver receives only the signal

from the appliance that the remote control is directed toward. The directional receiving means is a vertex of a virtual conical channel, which has a base that is directed toward a desired appliance. This advantageously allows the receiver to receive only signals emitted from the transmitter of the appliance to which the receiver aiming axis is pointed at so that the receiver does not detect signals from other adjacent appliances. Neubauer et al. fails to provide such an advantage because the remote controller 1 does not provide the directional receiving means as provided in the claimed combination. As such, the prior art as a whole teaches a different approach and fails to suggest the features or advantages of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 1 and 9 as now presented and all claims that respectively depend thereon.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neubauer et al. in view of Popineau (US 7,053,798), which the Office Action states is the U.S. equivalent of WO/2002/010897.

Popineau discloses a computer system 1 controlled by a group of users by means of several mouse-type pointing devices 3 without wired connection with the system 1. Each pointing device communicates by infrared with a console 38 connected to the system 1 through a communication port 50. The graphic interface of the system is projected 47, 48 on a large screen 49 for collective visual display. The console 38 comprises a detachable receiver horn 41 which enhances the range and a set of switches 40 for selecting the mouse or mice controlling one or several cursors 54 of different shape or color. The receiver horn is connected to the console 38.

As already discussed above, Neubauer et al. fails to teach or suggest the combination of features as claimed. Further, Popineau fails to suggest or provide any motivation for the combination of a remote control having a directional receiving means for narrowing the angle of reception. Popineau merely discloses a device to control a computer system by a group of users by means of many pointer devices. In contrast to Popineau, the present invention provides a single remote to control several different appliances. Popineau only suggests that the receiver horn 41 is located on the receiver of the console. The receiver horn of Popineau fails to be provided on the receiver of the remote control as provided in the present invention. In contrast to the present invention, the receiver horn is located on the remote controlled equipment and not on remote control itself. As such, Popineau merely suggests providing a receiver horn in the computer console and fails to provide any motivation for providing a directional receiving means that is a vertex of a virtual conical channel, which has a base that is directed toward a desired appliance as claimed in the present invention. Further, the references fail to provide any motivation for using the teachings of Popineau to modify Neubauer et al. As such, the references as a whole fail to suggest the features of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 1 and 9 as now presented and all claims that respectively depend thereon.

Applicant has added new claims 13-16. New independent claim 13 provides for similar features and advantages as discussed in regards to claim 1, but in different claim language. New dependent claims 14-16 are based on independent claim 13 and further clarify the invention. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider new claims 14-16.

Favorable action on the merits is requested.

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Attached: Petition for Three Month Extension of Time

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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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